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(703)695-0192(media)

(703)697-5737

(public/industry)

**IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**September 25,
2000**PENTAGON AWARDS CONTRACT FOR METRO
ENTRANCE RENOVATION**

The Department of Defense today announced that the Pentagon Renovation Program Office has awarded phase one of a \$36.5 million contract to Hensel Phelps Construction Co., of Chantilly, Va., for the design and construction of a new Pentagon Metro Entrance Facility. This project is part of congressionally approved security enhancements to the Pentagon, which is currently undergoing extensive renovation.

The contract is the direct result of coordinated efforts between the Pentagon, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, political officials, state and local transportation agencies, and representatives of the disability community.

The Pentagon Metro Station, the Washington area's largest bus-to-rail transfer point, has not undergone a major upgrade since it was completed in the mid 1970's. For security reasons, the bus facility will be relocated farther away from the building. The new facility will include covered bus bays, escalators and major walkways, and two elevators at all vertical transition points. In addition, windscreens will enhance passenger comfort at bus waiting areas and along major walkways.

Other upgrades include state-of-the-art security equipment and telecommunications, and improved lighting and aesthetics. Two additional bus bays will accommodate projected increases in ridership and a new metro sales office also will be built. The metrorail station will not be affected by the change.

Design of the facility will begin immediately and initial site work will start this fall. Completion is expected in late 2002.

For additional information on the Metro Entrance Facility project, visit <http://renovation.pentagon.mil/MEF.htm>.